

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A direct-light illuminating backlight unit with shielding mask for a liquid crystal display has a case with a back, at least one lamp mounted in alignment with the back, and at least one shielding mask mounted in the case in front of the corresponding lamp. The case has a front opening that has at least one brighter region immediately in front of the lamp and at least one dimmer region away from the lamp. The shielding mask is made of opaque material and has openings to let light through. The shielding mask allows only some light radiated forward from the lamp to pass through to the front opening, so that the luminance of the brighter area is reduced and the brightness of the emitting light at the front opening is more homogenous.